**Acute drought in Saurashtra**

*678. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports about the acute drought, water scarcity and famine conditions in Saurashtra especially Kutch;

(b) if so, what is the latest information and assessment of Government about the magnitude and dimensions of the drought situation and whether Government have had an independent survey of the situation by sending a Central Team; and

(c) what Central aid has been demanded by the State Government of Gujarat and that given by the Central Government for drought relief measures?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat have so far declared 2419 villages in 31 taluks in 5 districts as drought affected areas after the south-west monsoon of 1993. District-wise details are given below:-

| District | No. of Taluks | No. of Villages declared drought affected |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Kutch | 9 | 956 |
| 2. Jamnagar | 10 | 674 |
| 3. Junagadh | 3 | 113 |
| 4. Rajkot | 5 | 425 |
| 5. Bhavnagar | 4 | 251 |
| TOTAL: | 31 | 2419 |

Under the existing Scheme of Financing Relief Expenditure, Government of Gujarat is required to provide necessary relief to the affected population using the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The State of Gujarat has an annual Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 85.00 crores, out of which, Rs. 63.75 crores is contributed by the Government of India. Apart from the entire Central share of CRF for the year 1993-94, Government of India has since released the first instalment of CRF for the year 1994-95 amounting to Rs. 15.9375 crores. The State Government has not requested for any additional assistance for relief measures in the wake of existing drought conditions, Government of India has not deputed any Central Team to assess the situation.

**Conception of NCR Plan**

*679. SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the concept behind the National Capital Region (NCR) plan;

(b) what benefits have been derived therefrom so far;

(c) whether the development of NCR is progressing according to the plan; and

(d) to what extent it has helped to decongest the capital city of Delhi;

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) The National Capital Region Plan, as reflected in the Regional Plan-2001, which came into force on 23.1.1989, aims at:

(a) reducing the pressure of population of Delhi; and

(ii) achieving a balanced and harmonised development of the National Capital Region.

(b) During the 20 years period 1974-1994, a total investment of over Rs. 200 crores has been made on a matching basis by the Central Government and the NCR Planning Board, on the one hand, and the member State Governments, on the others, in 67 projects in various identified counter-magnet cities and towns within NCR and beyond.

(c) Yes, Sir, to a considerable extent.

(d) It is too early to assess the impact of the Regional Plan-2001 on the decongestion of Delhi. Such an assessment should await the completion of the implementation of the plan. It has to be noted, however, that, in 1991, for the first time in three decades, the overall population growth rate of Delhi has registered a marginal decline. The implementation of the Regional Plan-2001 is expected to accelerate this welcome trend.

**Threat to Khajuraho Temple by Indian Airline Planes**

*680. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 16th April, 1994 to the effect that Indian Airlines pilots appear to be bent upon damaging the famous Khajuraho temple in Madhya Pradesh by over-flying planes inspite of repeated protests from Achaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the overflying planes have caused cracks in the historical monument; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that UNESCO had sanctioned Rs. 1.5 crore for the upkeep of the monuments at Sanchi and Satdhara?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has already been taken up with concerned authorities to divert the flight path of aircrafts in view of the possibility that the monuments could be damaged by vibrations emitted from the aircrafts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

**Production/Export of Cotton**

7108. SHRI V HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Ministry will take the lead in bringing together cotton growers, exporters and cotton users to set some guidelines on export of cotton; and

(b) what steps are being taken in this regard to assist cotton farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The present Export Policy on cotton, under which five lakh bales of cotton are released for export at the beginning of the cotton season,